Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in violation of the Simla Agreement and vitilate the atmosphere of bilateral relations. Government are committed to resolve all differences with Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations. In this context, Government have proposed comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan. This offer has been accepted by Pakistan. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries are scheduled to meet in Islamabad from 1—3 January, 1994.

Discussions held with South Africa's Foreign Minister

660. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Africa's Foreign Minister R. F. Botha during his recent visit to New Delhi made a proposal for the formation of an Economic Bloc comprising of India, Pakistan, South Africa, Gulf Countries and the East African States; and

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) South Africa's Foreign Minister Mr. R. F. Botha during his recent visit to New Delhi expressed the view that littoral countries of Indian Ocean including those mentioned should explore possibilities of intensified economic co-operation.

(b) Government of India is taking an active interest in this suggestion.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to New York

661. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently visited New York to attend the UN General Assembly meetings;

(b) if so, what specific issues were discussed therein; and what resolution were passed by the Assembly; and

(c) what is Government's response in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The General Assembly discussed a number of important issues pertaining to international security disarmament, human rights, economics, financial and legal matters. We held a number of meetings with delegations from other member States during which these issues including Pakistan's move to internationalise the question of Jammu and Kashmir, were discussed. These meetings proved fruitful.

The UN General Assembly is still in Session and the Indian delegation is playing an active and constructive role of projecting our view points on the various agenda items under consideration.

श्री प्रभाकरण को गिरफ्तार करने के लिये श्रीलंका के साथ प्रत्यर्पण संधि

662. **श्री बहादेव आनन्द पात्सवान:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि स्वर्गीय श्री राजीव गांधी की हत्या के मामले में प्रमुख अभियुक्त श्री प्रभाकरण श्रीलंका के जाफना क्षेत्र में छिपा हुआ है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार प्रमुख अभियुक्त श्री प्रभाकरण को श्रीलंका से प्रत्यर्पण संधि करके भारत में लाने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया): (क) जी नहीं। स्वर्गीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी

की हत्या के मामले में प्रमुख अभियुक्त, लिट्टे के नेता श्री प्रभाकरण के अते-पते के विषय में सरकार के पास कोई प्रमाणिक जानकारी नहीं है।

(ख) श्रीलंका के साथ कोई प्रत्यर्पण संधि करने का प्रस्ताव नहीं है। तथापि, श्री प्रभाकरण के प्रत्यर्पण के विषय में श्रीलंका की सरकार से औपचारिक अनुरोध किए जाने का मामला सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

Pakistan campaign against India on Kashmir issue

663. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has mounted a well orchestrated campaign against India on the Kashmir issue so much so that the western media is mentioning Kashmir along with Bosnia;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has also stepped up in its pressure on the U.N. Human Rights sub-committee to send an observer mission to monitor human rights violation in Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to effective, counter the Pak propagenda and what are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Attempts to sponsor a resolution to this effect were made in the Trade Committee of the UNGA during its current sessions.

(c) As a result of the diplomatic efforts made by Government. Pakistan did not find the necessary support and has ultimately decided not to table the proposed resolution in the Third Committee of the UNGA.

Changes in US policy on Kashmir

664. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Democrats came in power there is a shift in U.S. policy on Kashmir; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons that anti-India statements from Government circle as well as adverse press comments are coming from US recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have noted reference to Kashmir in pronouncements by US officials which could be perceived as a certain shift in the US position over Kashmir.

(b) Not applicable.

Winding up the joint business councils

665. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of External Affairs has initiated a move to wind up the Joint Business Councils;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner the requirement would be met in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.